[English]

Registration of Cement Companies

4322. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cement companies Government registered during the last three years in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the number of cement companies functioning in Andhra Pradesh during beginning of each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the last three years, 302 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM) have been filed in respect of Cement in the Ministry. Out of this, 35 IEMs relate to Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Number of cement companies functioning in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of cement companies.	No. of cement plants.
93-94	14	16
94-95	13	16
95-96	13	16

The number of mini cement plants functioning is not maintained centrally.

Jewel Appraisers of Banks

4323. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to regularise the services of the Jewel Appraisers of Banks as is done in the case of Jewel Appraisers of the Indian Bank;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Old Textiles Machinery

4324 SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted permission and rebate on import of old textile-industry machinery in the country;

(b) if so, the amount spent on import of old machinery during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the cost of production by these old imported machineries is more in comparison to the cost in competitive world market, and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) In terms of the Export and Import Policy 1992-97, all second hand capital goods, including old textile machinery, having a minimum residual life of 5 years can be imported by the actual users without a licence subject to actual user condition. Second hand machinery can also be imported under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme by paying 15% or zero percent import duty and under 100% Export Oriented Unit (EOU) Scheme without paying any duty. Also, vide Customs Notification No.36/96-Cus dated 23.7.96 customs duty on 117 Nos. of specified items of textile machinery has been reduced from 25% to 10%.

(b) Import data of old machines in not maintained, as 'old machines' are not separately classified under Indian Trade Classification on the basis of which Foreign Trade Statistics are compiled.

(c) and (d). Government has no information as to whether the cost of production by these old imported machineries is more in comparison to the cost in competitive world market.

[Translation]

Trust Fund

4325. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India propose to contribute towards the turst fund proposed to be set up for the development of under-developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount proposed to be invested in the Trust fund at the time of its creation; and

(d) the time by which the said Fund is likely to start operating?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). India proposes to contribute US $ 1,00,000 (One Lakh US dollar only) towards the Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) proposed to be set up by UNCTAD. The purpose of the Trust Fund would be to facilitate the start-up of new activities and to help LDCs react to challenges and benefit from opportunities provided by globilsation and liberalisation.

(c) Targetted corpus of the Fund is US $ 5 million.